

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

July 2002

Inspection and Evaluation Committee Members

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Labor

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HHS

STEPHEN SMITH
FCA

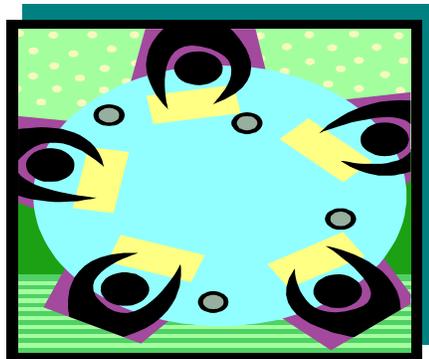
I&E Committee Meetings will be held quarterly and will usually rotate among IG members. Richard Griffin (VA) will host the next meeting. Date to be announced.



Next I&E Roundtable Meeting

July 18, 2002, 9:30 a.m.
Department of the Interior

I&E COMMITTEE CHAIR ADDRESSES AGA CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA, JULY 9



Commerce Inspector General Johnnie Frazier, Chair of the I&E Committee, joined five other Inspectors General who chair PCIE Committees and the PCIE Vice Chair (Kenneth Mead, DOT; Everett Mosley, USAID; Christine Boesz, NSF; Nikki Tinsley, EPA; Patrick McFarland, OPM; and Gaston Gianni, FDIC & PCIE Vice Chairman) on a panel to provide perspectives on how the IG community is “Balancing IG Priorities to Effectively Oversee Government” at the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Conference. Approximately 1,400 attendees from federal, state and local governments and from the private sector attended AGA’s annual meeting, held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 7-10, 2002.

Mr. Frazier took the opportunity to explain to the conference attendees

exactly what inspections are and how they can be an especially effective tool for IGs, in addition to audits and investigations, to use in reviewing the effectiveness of agency programs, management and operations.

Since many of the state and local government managers and private sector attendees were unfamiliar with the inspections process, he discussed that as well as the general profile of inspection units, their multidisciplinary staffs, and the broad scope of recent inspection work. Frazier also provided an overview of the I&E Committee and its I&E Roundtable.

I&E COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Project Updates

I&E Roundtable members from the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and Commerce reported on the progress of the following ongoing I&E Committee and Roundtable projects.

Travel Cards Oversight. The I&E Roundtable is completing work on a “best practices” report to aid IG oversight of the federal travel card program. The roll-up report will be a guide to common problems as well as corrective actions to deal with them. The report is currently being drafted by the Labor OIG under Gordon Heddell’s leadership. Labor OIG issued four reports on the use of travel cards in the Labor Department in late March 2002. The wrap-up “best practices” report will also include work per-

formed by the Justice, Education, Commerce, Office of Personnel Management, and the Social Security Administration OIGs. To share work done by other OIGs in this area, contact Beth McNeill at 202-693-5217 or by e-mail to mcneill@oig.dol.gov.

Child Support Enforcement. This project has involved the work of the HHS and Justice OIGs. These offices examined reports on compliance with child support laws among FBI and HHS employees. A recent report issued by the Department of Justice OIG established that FBI employees were in compliance with child support payments. In October 2001 the HHS OIG issued its final report on this subject. The study was based on using tax return files maintained by the Internal Revenue Service to reveal child support payments that were in arrears.

However, follow-up discussions with the HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement revealed that privacy laws and regulations prevent such a study from being performed in any other department. This project is now considered complete as an I&E initiative. However, the HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement agreed to periodically conduct a computer match to identify federal employees who are in arrears in support payments.

Training. The IG Auditor Training Institute (IGATI) will be moving to its new offices in Rosslyn, Virginia, in September. Visit IGATI at, <http://www.igati.org/contact.ht>

[ml](#), to find the class schedule that includes courses for I&E staff.

In other IGATI news, Director Danny Athanasaw, wants to establish a Board of Governors to assist in reviewing courses and developing new ones to meet customer needs. He is looking for volunteers from the I&E community to serve on the Board. If interested, please contact Debbie Holmes (dholmes@oig.hhs.gov). (Note: Debbie is moving to Commerce OIG. After August 11, Debbie's e-mail address will be dholmes@oig.doc.gov.)

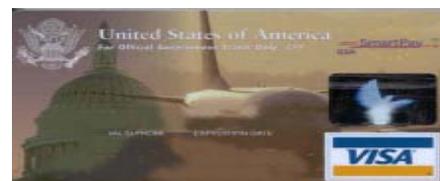
Training Notes: HHS OIG staff just completed training in Interviewing Skills. Staff members were very pleased with the quality of the training. If interested, contact Debbie Holmes.

A number of I&E shops are rebuilding and are looking for good training opportunities for new personnel. If you are aware of excellent training courses, please pass that information on to Debbie Holmes.

Other News

AEA Conference. The American Evaluation Association's (AEA) annual conference will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia., November 6-10, 2002. For registration information, visit the AEA web site <http://www.eval.org>. Johnnie Frazier, Nikki Tinsley, and George Grob are scheduled to discuss I&E work.

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact:
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PCIE Purchase Card Guide A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR REVIEWING GOVERNMENT PURCHASE CARD PROGRAMS

The Purchase Card Guide presented by the I&E Committee is available on CD-Rom and has been provided to most OIGs. It is also available on the Commerce OIG web site and is being reformatted to fit on the IGnet site, <http://www.ignet.gov/igs/homepage.html>. The report is also being printed and will soon be available for distribution to the PCIE community.

Much effort has gone into making this document a useful tool for all PCIE members as well as others. Special thanks go to the Education OIG, which prepared the initial version of the guide and to the Commerce OIG, which has worked on the final product.

The guide contains a resource list of purchase card reviews performed by the OIGs at Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, GSA, Interior, State, Transportation, and VA, and the GAO. This provides examples of how different agencies conduct and present their reviews of the purchase card program. Copies of specific reports can be obtained from the appropriate OIGs or from their web sites.

The purchase card guide should prove to be a valuable tool that enables IGs to more effectively target their efforts for preventing as well as detecting waste, fraud, and abuse by government purchase cardholders. It also serves as yet another example of the commitment of the inspectors general to work collectively to promote efficiency and effectiveness throughout the federal government.